IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with <u>underlining</u> and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. When strikethrough cannot easily be perceived, or when five or fewer characters are deleted, [[double brackets]] are used to show the deletion. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please AMEND claims 1, 4, 5, 10, 15, 18, 19, 24, 28 and 31, accordance with the following:

1.   (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method of compressing image data comprising:

detecting a specified compression ratio corresponding to a printing mode selected by a user from compression ratios corresponding to a variety of printing modes; and

compressing the image data according to the detected specified compression ratio<u>,</u> <u>wherein the variety of printing modes provide varying settings to account for factors including at least one of a degree of an image quality and a type of image data</u>.

2.   (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 1, wherein the compression ratios corresponding to the variety of printing modes are stored on a recording medium.

3.   (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 2, wherein the compression ratios corresponding to the variety of printing modes are stored in a lookup table on the recording medium.

4.   (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim 3, wherein the variety of printing modes provide varying settings to account for factors including at least one of ~~a degree of an image quality,~~ a type of a printing paper~~, a type of image data,~~ and a printing color.

5.   (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim [[4]]<u>1</u>, wherein the degree of image quality includes at least a draft quality, a normal quality, and a best quality.

6.   (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 5, wherein the draft quality yields a low first image quality and a high first image compression ratio.

7.   (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 6, wherein the normal quality yields a second image quality higher than the first and a second compression ratio lower than the first.

8.   (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 7, wherein the best quality yields a third image quality higher than the second image quality and a third compression ratio lower than the second compression ratio.

9.   (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 1, wherein the printing is selected by a user via a user interface.

10.   (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim [[4]]1, wherein the variety of paper includes at least automatic, plain paper, inkjet paper, photo paper, transparency films, special paper, greeting paper, and brochure paper.

11.   (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 3, wherein image resolution is stored in the look up table.

12.   (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 1, wherein the compressing is performed on the image data by a data loss compression method.

13.   (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 12, wherein the compressing is perreformed on the image data by a JPEG compression method.

14.   (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 1, wherein the method is performed for a print operation to print the image data.

15.   (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An apparatus for compressing image data comprising:
        a compression ratio detection unit which detects a specified compression ratio corresponding to a printing mode selected by a user from compression ratios corresponding to a variety of printing modes and outputs the detected specified compression ratio; and
        a data compression unit which compresses the image data according to the detected specified compression ratio,
        wherein the variety of printing modes varying settings to account for factors including at least one of a degree of an image quality and a type of image.

16.   (ORIGINAL) The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the compression ratios corresponding to the variety of printing modes are stored on a recording medium.

17.   (ORIGINAL) The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the compression ratios corresponding to the variety of printing modes are stored in a lookup table on the recording medium.

18.   (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the variety of printing modes varying settings to account for factors including at least one of a degree of an image quality, a type of a printing paper, a type of image and a printing color.

19.   (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The apparatus of claim 18 15, wherein the variety of image quality includes at least a draft quality, a normal quality, and a best quality.

20.   (ORIGINAL) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the draft quality yields a low first image quality and a high first image compression ratio.

21.   (ORIGINAL) The apparatus of claim 20, wherein the normal quality yields a second image quality higher than the first and a second compression ratio lower than the first.

22.   (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the best quality yields a third image quality higher than the second image quality and a third compression ratio lower than the second compression ratio.

23.   (ORIGINAL) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the printing is selected by a user via a user interface.

24.   (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The apparatus of claim 18 15, wherein the variety of paper includes at least automatic, plain paper, inkjet paper, photo paper, transparency films, special paper, greeting paper, and brochure paper.

25.   (ORIGINAL) The apparatus of claim 17, wherein image resolution is stored in the look up table.

26.   (ORIGINAL) The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the data compression unit performs compression on the image data by a data loss compression method.

27.   (ORIGINAL) The apparatus of claim 26, wherein the data compression unit performs compression on the image data by a JPEG compression method.

28.   (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An image data compressing system comprising:

a compression ratio detection section which detects a specified compression ratio corresponding to a printing mode selected by a user from compression ratios corresponding to a variety of printing modes and outputs the detected specified compression ratio; and

a data compression section which compresses the image data according to the detected specified compression ratio,

wherein the variety of printing modes varying settings to account for factors including at least one of a degree of an image quality a type of image.

29.   (ORIGINAL) The system of claim 28, further comprising a storage section which stores the compression ratios corresponding to the variety of printing modes.

30.   (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 29, wherein the compression ratios corresponding to the variety of printing modes are stored in a lookup table in the storage section.

31.   (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A computer readable storage medium encoded with processing instructions for causing a computer to perform a method of compressing image data comprising:

detecting a specified compression ratio corresponding to a printing mode selected by a user from compression ratios corresponding to a variety of printing modes; and

compressing the image data according to the detected specified compression ratio,

wherein the variety of printing modes provide varying settings to account for factors including at least one of a degree of an image quality a type of image data.

32. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 1, further comprising transmitting the compressed image data to a printer.

33. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the data compression unit outputs the compressed image data to be transmitted to a printer separate from the apparatus.

34. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The system of claim 28, wherein the data compression section outputs the compressed image data to be transmitted to a printer separate

from the system.

35. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The medium of claim 31, wherein the method further comprises transmitting the compressed image data to a printer.